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and her colonies. The study is properly based upon the natural conditions affecting the production and distribution of commodities. In Part I the products of each geographic division, as the low plain of the Upper Rhine, the Baltic coast region, etc., are treated separately. Part II is devoted to a general survey of the industries and trade of the country as a whole. Part III deals with the colonies, and Part IV describes the chief raw materials imported from foreign countries. The topics, particularly the industries, are treated with unusual fullness for a text-book; but a school book on Commercial Geography limited to a single country misses the important educative element of comparison and contrast with other countries.

*Hints to Travellers. Edited by John Coles, F.R.G.S., F.R.A.S. Eighth Edition, Revised and Enlarged. Vols. I and II. London, The Royal Geographical Society, 1901.*

The present edition of this useful handbook has been expanded to two volumes. The first volume, entirely given to Surveying and Practical Astronomy, amplifies the earlier sections on Surveying, and includes a set of tables, by using which, with the Nautical Almanac, travellers may compute the results of their observations. In the second volume the sections on Meteorology and Medical Hints have been rewritten and greatly enlarged; and Photography, Geology, Natural History, Industry, and Commerce, etc., have been revised. Hints on Outfit and other topics, formerly treated in the one-volume edition, are reserved for a separate pamphlet. Many explorers are compelled to limit the weight of their outfit. It is to be supposed that all suggestions most needed in their travels can be compactly presented within the present compass of this work, which still has the advantage of being lighter and smaller than some of the similar German handbooks.

*The Restoration of the Ancient Irrigation Works on the Tigris; or, The Re-Creation of Chaldea. By Sir William Willcocks, K.C.M.G., M.I.C.E., Late Director-General of Reservoirs, Egypt, Managing Director of the Daina Sanieh Company. Being a Lecture Delivered at a Meeting of the Khedivial Geographical Society, Cairo, 25th March, 1903. With Two Appendices. Appendix A—Meteorological Information about Bagdad. Appendix B—An Address on "Egypt Fifty Years Hence." And Ten Plates. Cairo, National Printing Department, 1903.*

Egypt is the queen of irrigated countries, but next to Egypt Sir William places the wonderful land irrigated in ancient days by

the Tigris, and he sees the resurrection of this region near at hand in the progress of the Bagdad Railway.

In ancient days there were two great systems of irrigation starting from above the final rapids of the Tigris—the Nahrwân system on the left bank, and that now known as the Dijeil on the right. In those days the Tigris was in its old bed, and the ancient Opis on its left bank bore to the delta of the river much the same relation that Cairo bears to the delta of the Nile.

These systems were magnificent, and the Nahrwân alone, when carrying its full supply, must have been capable of crippling the Tigris. Sir William declares that, for magnitude, the Nahrwân surpassed any Egyptian or Indian canal. The ruin that came upon the prosperous Chaldea was caused by the change in the course of the Tigris. With the completion of the Bagdad Railway will come the restoration of the canals and the creation of another Egypt.

Appendix A gives the temperature, wind velocity and direction, and rainfall at Bagdad for 1888, 1894, 1899–1902. The mean annual temperature ranges from 71.4 (Fahr.) in 1888 to 74.5 in 1901. The highest wind velocity is 10 miles per hour in February, 1888 and 1894, and the yearly mean for four years is three miles an hour. The rainfall was 8.4 in. in 1888, 22.2 in 1894, 3.6 in 1899, 5.7 in 1900, and 1.5 in 1901.

Sir William Willcocks is no prophet of evil. His vision of Egypt Fifty Years Hence reads like a description of the Golden Age with modern improvements, and among these two statues, one of Cecil Rhodes on the Equator, the other of Mr. Cope Whitehouse on the top of the Mesaigêga cliff contemplating the inland lake of 600 square kilometres, which will be one of the pleasure resorts of Europe.

The plates accompanying this interesting pamphlet admirably illustrate the story of irrigation on the Tigris.

*Toscanelli and Columbus. Letters to Sir Clements R. Markham and to C. Raymond Beazley. With Introductory Note and Bibliography of this Controversy. London, 1903.—Toscanelli and Columbus. A Letter from Sir Clements R. Markham, K.C.B., and a Reply from Mr. Henry Vignaud. London, 1903.—La Route des Indes et les Indications que Toscanelli aurait fournies à Colomb. Lettre au Dr. Jules Mees, de Gand, qui pourra intéresser le Dr. Sophus Ruge, de Dresde, par Henry Vignaud, etc. Paris, 1903.*

In these three pamphlets Mr. Vignaud reaffirms his convictions